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(54) Title: FUEL CELL STACK DEFROSTING

(57) Abstract: A fuel cell power plant comprises a fuel cell stack (1) constituted by aplurality of fuel cells which perform electric power generation by means of areaction of hydrogen and oxygen. A controller (16) determines whether or notmoisture inside the fuel cell stack (1) is frozen, and if the moisture is frozen,the controller (16) causes the fuel cell stack (1) to perform intermittent electricpower generation via an inverter (27) while continuing to supply oxygen to thefuel cell stack (1). The fuel cell stack (1) generates heat as a result of theelectric power generation, whereby moisture is generated in a cathode (9).During the periods in which electric power generation is not performed, theoxygen which is supplied to the cathode (9) of the fuel cells scavenges thegenerated moisture, thereby ensuring the supply of oxygen to the cathode (9)during electric power generation.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01M8/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 5 798 186 A (FLETCHER NICHOLAS J ET AL) 25 August 1998 (1998-08-25) abstract column 2, line 51 - line 61 column 3, line 4 - line 54 column 5, line 55 -column 6, line 3 column 7, line 35 - line 36 column 7, line 53 -column 8, line 67	1-20
A	US 2002/009623 A1 (JIA NENG YOU ET AL) 24 January 2002 (2002-01-24) paragraphs '0001!,'0012!,'0016!	1-20

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
29 December 2003	07/01/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Gosselin, D

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International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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